

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

The specification has been objected to as allegedly failing to provide antecedent bases for claimed subject matter. In particular, as to claim 1 the term “pin of a connector” is alleged not to have support in the specification. Applicant respectfully directs the examiner to, among other places, page 4, lines 15-17 and page 5, lines 26-27.

As to lines 4-5, it is alleged that “asserting a first output signal to indicate the first pin is in first state” is also not disclosed. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to, among other places, page 4, lines 18-27. Applicant has amended the claim to correct the typographical error as to receiving a first output signal at a flat panel display engine as it should read the display engine, for example, as shown in Fig. 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these objections be withdrawn. As to claims 5, 6, and 10, Applicants have corrected the typographical errors.

Claims 5, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite due to the use of the words “the steps of”. Applicants have amended the claims to remove these words. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,159,683 (*Lvovsky et al.*). This is a new ground rejection. The *Lvovsky et al.* reference is directed to a graphics controller adapted to sense the type of connected video monitor and configure the control and display signals supplied to the monitor accordingly by monitoring at least two lines of a connector only during a power on sequence. The different video monitors that are described in *Lvovsky et al.* are a monochrome monitor, a color monitor,

and an enhanced color monitor. There is no mention of a flat panel display or a display engine that receives the output signal since nothing is displayed during power up. In particular, *Lvovsky et al.* teaches an monitor sensing unit and automatic switch 38 and 40 wherein the monitor sensing unit 38 senses two wires from a connector only during a power up condition which is described as prior art in applicants' specification (see page. 2). Based on the two wires, output states are stored in a register 52 during power up indicating a type of monitor that has been detected.

In contrast, Applicants claims are directed to, among other things, methods and apparatus that allow hot plugging of a flat panel display so that powering down and up is not required when connecting an external flat panel display as is the case with *Lvovsky et al.* Amended claim 1 requires the monitoring of one pin of a connector coupled to a flat panel display, asserting an output signal to indicate that the one pin is in a first state and receiving a first output signal at a display engine. This is different from the *Lvovsky et al.* reference as the *Lvovsky et al.* references teaches that at least two pins must be monitored only during a power up condition and such monitoring does not indicate the indication of a flat panel display nor is a display engine coupled to receive the output signal as claimed. The multi pin monitoring system of *Lvovsky et al.* cannot allow hot plugging as can Applicants' claimed method and apparatus and requires two pins to be monitored. Applicant also respectfully submits these remarks with respect to new claim 23, as new claim 23 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 1.

The dependent claims also additional novel and non-obvious subject matter. For example, the Office Action admits that *Lvovsky et al.* fails to teach, among other things, the assertion of an interrupt signal as set forth for example in claims 2 and 3. *Verdun* is cited as allegedly teaching the missing subject matter of *Lvovsky et al.* However, Applicants respectfully

submit that *Lvovsky et al.* and *Verdun* are not properly combinable since *Lvovsky et al.* would not require any type of interrupt signals since Lvovsky specifically teaches that the *Lvovsky et al.* circuit is used only during the power on stage. In fact, *Lvovsky et al.* states that the sensing of signal lines 31 occurs during the duration of the control signal for the buffer 32, namely that the buffer is in the high impedance state and as such, during a power on stage of a personal computer. When the power on state of the personal computer is over, the sensing circuits of *Lvovsky et al.* are inoperative. As such, there would be no need for an interrupt signal of *Verdun* since the *Lvovsky et al.* sensing circuit operates only during power up and independently of a system processor (it is disabled during normal operation). One would not be motivated to completely redesign *Lvovsky et al.* to make it inoperable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of *Verdun* and of the *Lvovsky et al.* are not properly combinable as Lvovsky et al. system appears to be designed to avoid the use of any interrupt signal and cannot provide a type of hot plug-in operation. Accordingly, these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has only been rejected based on 35 USC § 112 and has been amended to overcome the rejection. As such, this claim is allowable.

New claims 25 is are directed to, among other things, at least one pin being monitored and a method using multiple displays such that a first display may be displaying information while the monitoring an asserting and generation of the interrupt signal occurs to allow the connection of a flat panel display to the system during normal operation. Such an operation is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the

below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Christopher J. Reckamp
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 609-7500
FAX: (312) 609-5005